



सत्यमेव जयते

डा. रीता शर्मा

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सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
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SECRETARY  
Government of India  
Ministry of Rural Development

D.O. No. J-11017/2/2009-NREGA

10<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

We are receiving reports from various quarters of delay in payment of wages to NREGA workers. Section 3(3) of the NREG Act lays down that the wages to the NREGA workers will be paid not later than a fortnight of work done. Para 30 of Schedule II of the Act provides for payment of compensation to NREGA workers in accordance with the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 in case of delay in payment of wages. Despite such clear provisions delays have been reported in payment of wages. This needs to be carefully looked into and remedial measures need to be taken to remove the bottlenecks that cause the delay.

2. Ministry has analyzed the reasons for delay in payment of wages. It has been found that the delay is occurring mainly because of three reasons. First, muster roll is being closed in most of the States only after 15 days of work. After the closure of the muster roll, entries in measurement books are being made and wage bills are being drawn up for preparation of the payment advice to the Banks/ Post Offices. This is leading to delay in payment of wages. Muster rolls should be closed within 7 days after which within 3 days advice should be sent to the Banks/Post Offices for payment of wages.

3. Secondly, delay is also occurring because of the time taken by the Banks and Post Offices in completing the transactions. Ministry is regularly in touch with the Ministry of Finance to ensure timely payment of wages through the Banks and Post Offices. We can advise the Ministry of Finance to take corrective measures to ensure timely payment of wages provided we receive specific information from you regarding district and bank-branch/post office-wise cases of delay in payment of wages and the causes underlying the delay.

4. Thirdly, shortage of staff in the Blocks and Gram Panchayats has also been found to be an important cause in delay of payment of wages. Ministry has already enhanced the limit of administrative expenditure from 4% to 6% to ensure strengthening of the delivery system. You may please assess the proper requirement of technical and administrative personnel so that delay in payment of wages is avoided.

5. I would greatly appreciate if a line of reply on the remedial measures adopted by the State Government to ensure timely payment of wages is sent to the Ministry at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

To all chief Secy

( Rita Sharma )